

COVENTRY CAROL (CHRISTMAS: INNOCENTS)

Slow down last verse on

SECOND VERSION

Shearmen
songs, 15th century

Modern version of tune
(M.S.)

REFRAIN *Not too slow*

OPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul -

Fine

ly lul - - lay. 1. O sis - ters too, How may we do
2. He - rod, the king, In his rag - ing,
3. That woe is me, Poor child for thee!

For to pre - serve this day This poor young - ling, — For
Char - ged he hath this day His men of might. — In
And e - ver morn and day. For thy part - ing Nei - ther

After 3rd verse, sing Refrain again

whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - - lay?
his own sight, All young chil - dren to slay.
say nor sing By by, lul - ly lul - - lay!

D.S.

The text is that of Robert Croo, 1534, reprinted by E. Rhys, *Everyman and other Plays*. The Coventry plays were witnessed by Margaret, Queen of Henry VI, in 1456, by Richard III in 1484, by Henry VII in 1492, and we hear of the Smiths' play being performed in 1584, which brings us near to the date where the tune appears.

See the note on p. 44.